

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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PRUSI RECOMMENDS SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

LANSING – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) recently introduced Senate Resolution 216, urging that the United States Forest Service review its forest management plan to revise timber practices and address declining timber yields in the country’s national forests.

“Michigan’s national forestlands play a vital role in the strength of our local economies,” Prusi said. “Our U.P. communities rely heavily on the economic benefits provided by the logging industry, whose dollars help to support our schools and local roads.”

Calling the current management strategies inadequate, Senator Prusi’s Resolution brings attention to the historically low timber yields produced in Michigan’s National Forest. In Fiscal Year 2003, a mere 26.7 million board feet (MMBF) of an allowable 70 million board feet (MMBF) were harvested from Hiawatha National Forest; Huron Manistee National Forest produced 36.7 MMBF of a target of 82.2 MMBF; and 55.9 MMBF of a sustainable 78 MMBF was harvested from Ottawa National Forest. Michigan counties receive federal payment in lieu of taxes on these lands that amount to 25 percent of stumpage receipts. Prusi believes that expanded sustainable harvesting would help to alleviate revenue sharing cuts at the local level and could provide additional job opportunities for U.P. families.

“Low timber yields are unhealthy for the future sustainability of both our federal forestlands and our local economies,” stated Prusi. “The U.S. Forest Service must review their current management strategies in order to maintain healthy and viable forests for future generations.”

Senate Resolution 216 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism.

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.